

News of the Day in Moline and East Moline

THE ARGUS.

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LIGHTNING BOLT TAKES ONE LIFE

Austrian Killed Walking Under Trees
on Fourth Avenue in East
End of City.

Andrew Romonink, 42 years of age,
employed by Deere & Co., during the
last five years, was killed instantly at
8:30 last evening when he was struck
by a bolt of lightning while walking
under trees on Railroad avenue near
Fourth street, in Moline.

The bolt of lightning leaped from
the trunk of the tree, which it had
struck, to the man's head, burning its
way through his skull, passing through
his body and coming out at his left
knee. Of such power was the bolt
that the man's coat, trousers and hat
were torn into shreds and scattered
about the scene of the tragedy.

Persons living in that neighborhood
rushed to the side of the stricken man.
They found life extinct. Several per-
sons hurried to telephones to summon
a physician, but it was discovered that
all phones in the neighborhood had
been put out of commission by the
electrical disturbance.

Finally someone ran to a store several
blocks away. Here a phone that
was not made useless by the lightning
was found, and the police were notified.
This was about eight minutes after
the tragedy had occurred. The police
ambulance was immediately rushed
to the scene and a pumper truck
taken along. But when the police ar-
rived, about twelve minutes after the
man had been struck, Romonink was
beyond aid.

The body was taken to Barnard's
undertaking parlor. Until nothing
was learned as to the man's identity
it was left in the care of the firm.
For two hours after the lightning had
struck people came and went. One
undertaking parlor to allow the body,
suspecting that perhaps the man might
be a friend. Numerous calls were made
to the police, making inquiries about
the man. But Romonink lay in the
undertaking room all during the two
hours, no one knowing or suspecting
who he was.

Shortly before 3, G. K. Wilson of
the employment department of Deere
& Co. phoned to Barnard's asking what
the man's check number was. He was
told that an envelope bearing the num-
ber 5045 was found on Romonink's
clothing. After referring to the files
of Deere & Co., it was discovered that
the man who received his pay under
number 5045 bore the name of Andrew
Romonink.

But no one was positively able to
identify the body until this morning.
At 10 this morning Frank Sollo, for-
merly foreman of the grinding shop
at Deere & Co., called at Barnard's and
positively identified the body as that
of Andrew Romonink. Romonink, he
said, had worked under him for several
years. Sollo did not know Romonink's
present address. His wife and five
children live in Austria, he said.
At 11 today no friends or relatives
of the dead man had been found.

The tragedy occurred in front of the
home of Mrs. Elmer Olson and Mrs.
Lars Anderson, her mother. The shock
of the bolt and tragedy caused Mrs.
Anderson to lose consciousness. She
is now under a physician's care. Mrs.
Olson and Mrs. Anderson were sitting
on the porch of their home when the
lightning struck Romonink.

The tree under which Romonink
was walking was slightly damaged.
Marks of the lightning's course were
plainly visible, however. The tree ap-
peared to have been scratched by some
animal. These scratches were visible
from along the entire trunk of the
tree. The bolt evidently struck near
the top and traveled along the tree
trunk until it hit Romonink.

After reaching Romonink the cur-
rent passed along the ground in a
westerly direction, scratching the sur-
face in a manner similar to the tree.
It finally grounded beside the fence
fronting the Olson home. A window in
the house adjacent to the Olson home
was shattered. Several pieces were
broken from the fence.

Coroner J. G. Miller was to hold an
inquest into Romonink's death this
afternoon. Funeral services for Mr.
Romonink will be held in the Holy
Trinity Catholic church at 2:30 tomorrow
afternoon. Father Stanislaus Kub-
lak will officiate. Burial will be in
St. Mary's Catholic cemetery, East
Moline.

**STRANGE TALE TOLD
BY PAIR LOCAL MEN**

A man and a woman and a woman,
each about 25 years old, walked to the
foot of Sixteenth street, Moline, early
last evening. The man carried an
umbrella. As the couple approached
the bank of the river the woman
stepped ahead of the man. She stood
on the bank of the river a moment.

The woman hesitated, then appeared
to be jumping from the dock. The man
caught her by the neck with the crook
of his umbrella handle and prevented
her jumping. And then in full view
of several employees at the car barns
at that point, proceeded to give the
woman a severe thrashing with the
umbrella. Following the thrashing
the couple walked away. The em-
ployees of the railway company who
witnessed the nest tragedy did not
leave the vicinity of the car barns.
The men who saw the occurrence are
Art Carlson and Henry Cleveland.

EAST MOLINE IS TO KEEP UP WORK BUT WITHOUT CONTEST

NEW SHOP AT THE STATE HOSPITAL

Fireproof Structure Is to Replace
Wooden One at the State
Hospital.

Construction of the foundations for
a new fireproof paint shop for Water-
town Insuring is now under way. Work
on the basement is progressing rapidly.
The new shop is to be between the
old chapter and the men's infirmary,
and set back somewhat from the
street. The building will be 20 feet
wide and 50 feet long. It will be one-
story high with a basement. The old
paint shop is a wooden structure that
was a fire hazard as well as inade-
quate for the hospital's needs.

Installation of a new refrigerator
is under way at the hospital. The
burner will be installed in a small shed
with facilities for sorting of meat so
that paper and other materials which
have a marked value may be saved.
No effort will be made at present to
reduce the general refuse to commer-
cial products, except that the practice
of reducing pump grease from the trap
grease will be discontinued. Heretofore
the return of the institution has been
done in an outdoor burner and the
method was unsatisfactory because of
the imperfect combustion and result-
ing smoke.

Installation of fire safety equipment
is being made in the buildings of the
State institution in the regularizing
of the main drive from the entrance of
the grounds to the main building.

The drive has been resurfaced with
macadam and asphalt. It is the plan to
extend the surfaces along all of the
main drives on the Grounds and con-
tinuing the macadam roadway about this
entire trip. The work already done
represents an outlay of between \$16,
000 and \$18,000.

RUSS GIRLS ENLIST TO FIGHT WITH MEN

Perigrad, June 9.—Two hundred
girl students of the Patriotic Tech-
nical Institute have entered into
the ranks of the female regi-
ment which is being raised by Es-
tate Butcharkoff. The aim is im-
mediately to start to the front and to
fight in all respects under the same
conditions as men.

Scores of girls and women, anxious
to fight, appeared today at the office
of the League of Equal Rights for
Women, which has expressed its ap-
proval of Lieutenant Butcharkoff.

Last night the women warriors held
their first meeting. They were ad-
dressed by Colonel Popoff of the 12th
army, who appealed to the women to
shame male strikers and to admit to
active help defend the fatherland.

Another important development is
the state organization of the regularizing
of the main drive from the entrance of
the grounds to the main building.

Mr. Good, the boat will be used as
Submarine Chaser—He Signs
Up a Crew.

Police when they made a raid on the
bakery on Fifteenth avenue near tenth
street, East Moline, conducted by Wil-
liam Rojolito, spoiled a joyous party
that was in progress at 1:30 this morn-
ing. The officers took Rojolito in cus-
tody as keeper of a disorderly house,
and George Christopoulos, George
Brown, Rose Brown, E. Kingsburg and
Edith Hayes were arrested as inmates.
The officers who made the raid con-
fiscated a number of beer bottles that
were on tables in the place.

Up to date the five banks of Moline
and individuals have subscribed for
\$22,000 worth of bonds. Most of those
purchased by individuals have been
for small amounts. Mr. Hirsch stated
this morning that he expected a num-
ber of large ones to come in later.

The people of Moline are not re-
sponding to the appeal for purchase of
Liberty loan bonds in the manner that
they should," said Mr. Hirsch. "They
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